

Torrance, California
June 10, 1941

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday evening, June 10, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clark Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held May 27, 1941 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held June 3, 1941 be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization, enclosing letter from Natalie L. Ross, Principal of the Walteria School, wherein it was requested that the parking space outside the Walteria school fence be leveled off.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be referred to the Street Department for action. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization, advising that a letter had been directed to the St. Helen's Company in regard to the traffic hazard created by parking of St. Helen's Company gasoline trucks on Newton Street Near Hawthorne Boulevard and unloading into the storage tanks at the location. It was advised that the trucks are poorly lighted and obstruct traffic. Inasmuch as no answer had been received from St. Helen's Company, it was requested by the Walteria Civic Organization that the City Council act upon the matter.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Police Department for action. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Taylor and Taylor, Engineering Offices, 725 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, regarding the purchase of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1. It was stated that it had been called to the attention of Taylor and Taylor that, at the time the accounts were set up at the initial operation of the Water Department, the figure used to represent the plant that was purchased from the Utility Company was their original appraisal figure of \$113,000.00 as of July 10, 1933, whereas the actual purchase price of \$137,000.00 (a compromise price considerably lower than the Utility Company expected to obtain from the City) should have been used and broken down into the various accounts of tangible property purchased.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from L. J. Gilmeister, Manager Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, advising that arrangements with Mr. Prince, President of the Beacon Drug Company, Torrance, to act

as agent for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines on a commission basis of ten per cent of all round-trip and commutation books sold, had been completed and requested acceptance of this arrangement.

Councilman Babcock moved that the arrangement with Mr. Prince of the Beacon Drug Company, Torrance, to act as agent for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines as outlined by Mr. Gilmeister, Manager of the Bus Lines, be accepted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from L. J. Gilmeister, Manager Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, recommending that the City pay Roy Bristow, operator of the Gilmore Service Station on U. S. Highway 101 immediately east of Narbonne Avenue, \$2.50 per month and furnish one free round trip ticket from Lomita to Los Angeles once monthly, for use of rest room facilities for bus drivers at the U. S. Highway 101 and Narbonne Avenue terminal.

Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation of Mr. Gilmeister regarding rest room facilities for the bus drivers be complied with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from L. J. Gilmeister, Manager Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, recommending installation of seats and shelter in the triangular park in front of the Torrance Theatre (Sartori Street), and installation of a seat in front of the Beacon Drug Store at the corner of Cabrillo and Gramercy Avenues for the accommodation of patrons of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

Councilman Murray moved that the recommendation to place a seat at the corner of Cabrillo and Gramercy Avenues be complied with. This motion received no second.

Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation to install seats and shelter in the triangular park in front of the Torrance Theatre be referred to the Planning Commission and the City Engineer for report at the next meeting. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation to place a seat at the corner of Cabrillo and Gramercy Avenues for accommodation of passengers using the Torrance Municipal Busses be complied with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from L. J. Gilmeister, Manager Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, advising that he conferred with Maynard Boyce, Inc., Transportation Advertising, relative to their service on the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. The charge for this type of advertising was mentioned in the communication, Mr. Gilmeister stating that Maynard Boyce, Inc. would be willing to undertake to solicit on the basis of sixty per cent to them and forty per cent to the City of Torrance.

Councilman Babcock moved that L. J. Gilmeister, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, be authorized to enter into contract with Maynard Boyce, Inc., Transportation Advertising firm, for advertising service on the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, terms to be as stated by Mr. Gilmeister in his communication of June 9, 1941 relative to the matter. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from L. J. Gilmeister, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, recommending that, to avoid the possibility of disruption of scheduled service, two complete wheel units, each to consist of tire, tube, flange ring and wheel, ready for immediate installation should be kept on hand, one to be kept in Torrance and one at the Los Angeles terminal. The total price of \$71.16 each unit was given as the local Ford agency quotation.

Upon the suggestion of Councilman Murray, it was decided to defer action until prices of other tires can be obtained to compare with the Ford agency quotation.

A communication was read from W. H. Stanger, Manager of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, recommending purchase of five (5) \$1,000.00 M. I. D. No. 1 6% bonds for \$6537.45 as of June 15, 1941, as the price quoted includes accumulated interest to June 16, 1941 if sold at once, the entire transaction representing a saving of \$1762.55 to the Water District in the life of the 1952 bonds. Mr. Stanger advised that the William R. Staats Company, 640 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, is holding the abovementioned bonds.

Councilman Babcock moved that the abovementioned bonds be purchased from the William R. Staats Company for \$6537.45 as of June 15, 1941. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A petition bearing nineteen signatures was read, requesting establishment of a pedestrian zone across Cabrillo Avenue, from 1324 to 1300 West Cabrillo Avenue and Marcelina Street.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be granted and that the communication be referred to the Police Department for action. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the South Bay Humane Society, Inc., requesting renewal of contract for Humane work and collection of dog license fees for the fiscal year 1941-42, and requesting that action be taken as soon as possible in order that tags and books can be ordered.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be placed on file to be acted upon when the balance of the contracts and agreements are entered into. Councilman Murray seconded the motion.

It was pointed out that the South Bay Humane Society had requested action as soon as possible in order to order tags and books, at which time Councilman Powell and Councilman Murray withdrew their motion and second respectively.

Councilman Powell moved that the contract with South Bay Humane Society for Humane work for the fiscal year 1941-42 be renewed, the contract to be identical to the 1940-41 contract. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Department of Health, enclosing four copies of contract for public services to be rendered the City of Torrance over and above services performed under State law for the fiscal year 1941-42, and requesting execution of said contract prior to June 15, 1941 if possible.

Councilman Babcock moved that the contract with the County of Los Angeles, Department of Health, for the fiscal year 1941-42 be entered into and that the Mayor be authorized to execute same. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1454

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH KRYNE VAN den AKKER, AN ATTORNEY.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1454 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett reported receipt of the recall petitions in his office as of Saturday, June 7, 1941 at 10:35 A.M. and added that the petitions had not been checked as yet.

Engineer Jain reported that he had investigated the proposal of the State Relief Administration that the City of Torrance assume transportation cost for relief clients from the San Pedro and Los Angeles area to work with the City of Torrance Street Department. He said he had learned that no men are available (See Insert)* He recommended that Mr. Gilmeister, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, be authorized to issue the necessary tickets to furnish free transportation to these men, which Mr. Gilmeister is agreeable to do, provided the City will reimburse the Bus Lines. Mr. Jain suggested that passes, or tickets, for five days be issued to individual relief clients for free transportation.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. Gilmeister, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, be authorized to issue proper passes or tickets to provide free transportation for State Relief Administration workers who will be assigned to work with the City Street Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain reported that Taylor and Taylor, Engineering firm, had called at his office of recent date, as requested, regarding the matter of a water shortage in North Torrance, brought about by collapse of the Crown Water Company, thereby cutting off the water supply of fifteen or sixteen families. He said that the firm had offered no suggestions in the matter, and had, upon inquiring what steps had been taken by the City and what suggestions had been made, agreed that the steps taken so far had been proper. He said the firm had offered to make a survey of the district and to make a decision and supervise the plan through to completion for \$250.00.

Councilman Murray inquired whether or not the proposal of Taylor and Taylor would be a duplication of work already completed in part by Mr. Jain, at which time Councilman Powell said he would favor paying Mr. Jain the extra amount, inasmuch as he has devoted much time to the matter already.

Mr. Jain stated that there is no investigation to be made, but that the firm of Taylor and Taylor probably has more infor-

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from the San Pedro area, but that men from the Los Angeles area are available.

mation and facts regarding water levels and conditions in North Torrance than the City has, due to the fact that the firm made a survey of the entire city during the time negotiations were in progress for purchase of the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1.

Mr. Stanger, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Water District, remarked that the only difficulty would be in drilling the well. He said arrangements could be made for the pump installation and that the tank could be erected by the tank company. The matter of laying pipe from the pump to the tank would need no supervision, he said. He added that Taylor and Taylor had advised that they could save the City four or five hundred dollars on the pressure tank, said firm having pressure tanks for sale. Mr. Stanger agreed with Mr. Jain that Taylor and Taylor had offered no recommendations or suggestions, but that they had expressed the thought that the money involved represents a large expenditure for something with no future and had said the district should have a water system adequate to take care of future development.

Mr. Jain said Taylor and Taylor had estimated the cost at \$3500.00, being \$1,000.00 higher than his (Mr. Jain's) estimate, which, he said, was arrived at by using figures furnished by the tank companies.

Councilman Hitchcock pointed out that the only reason for suggesting Taylor and Taylor was to relieve Mr. Jain of the responsibility and tremendous amount of work involved, whereupon Mr. Jain suggested that, if agreeable, Taylor and Taylor could be hired on a per diem basis for inspections only.

Attorney McCall reported that Don Findley had been retained by the North Torrance people to handle the legal transactions necessary in the matter. He advised that money for the project cannot be either given or loaned, but that the City can enter into contract with any corporation, the North Torrance people have a corporation, he added, and contemplate organization of another one. Arrangements could be made, then, he said, for payments to be made to the City for money advanced. The City could also pay the operating costs, if any, he stated.

Councilman Powell pointed out that an emergency exists and that the City Council has broad powers in emergencies. He urged that action be taken at once.

Attorney McCall advised that Mr. Findley had planned today to contact the owner of the well who has been furnishing water on a temporary arrangement and determine whether he could continue the service if a more powerful pump is put on his well.

Mr. Stanger advised that Mr. Jewett, Health Officer, had contacted him and stated that the County Counsel had agreed to allow the sixteen families to use water from the school in the district.

Mr. Jain said Taylor and Taylor had concurred in the opinion of Mr. McCall in that the money could neither be loaned or granted for the purpose of installing the water system.

Attorney McCall reported receipt today of the certified copy of the final judgment in the matter of the Pacific Electric Railway Company, Cabrillo Avenue, right of way matter. He said the document had been entered in the record book, but it will be necessary for the City Clerk to have it recorded.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to record the certified copy of final judgment in the matter of the Pacific Electric Railway Company, Cabrillo Avenue, right of way matter. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$80.00 be made for dockets, fee book and receipt books for the City Court. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be instructed to mail a copy of the audit report presented to the City Council May 13, 1941 to District Attorney John Dockweiler, with the request that he take immediate action, said Audit Report and request to be mailed June 11, 1941. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$75.00 be made for repairs to hoist on truck #9, Street Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock requested the Council as a whole to inspect the trees on Maricopa Place which it has been requested to remove. Friday, June 13, 1941 at 4:30 P.M. was agreed upon as a suitable time for the inspection. Clerk Bartlett to remind members of the Council of the meeting at some time Friday, June 13, 1941.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$111.00 be made for 20 cases paper towels for use in the City buildings. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$52.75 be made for 8 cases toilet paper for use in the City buildings. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$155.00 be made for 1000# white rags for use in the City buildings. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Bob Lewellyn, thanking him and the American Legion for their efforts in making possible the Sons of the Legion parade held June 7, 1941. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell inquired of Councilman Hitchcock if he had appointed someone to the Recreation Committee, which Committee it was decided to appoint to act as an advisory board to the City Council Recreation Committee some time ago. Councilman Hitchcock advised that he had selected Mr. Johnstone to act in this capacity, and had turned in Mr. Johnston's name two weeks ago.

Dale Riley, Superintendent of the Recreation Department, was requested to notify Mr. Johnstone of the meeting scheduled for

Thursday, June 12, 1941 at 7:30 P.M., which he agreed to do.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor McGuire requested the Torrance Herald newspaper representative to announce in the paper Thursday, June 12, 1941 that Bob Lewellyn is Chairman of the newly appointed Recreation Committee which acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council Recreation Committee.

Mrs. Gonner of North Torrance reopened the discussion of the water situation in North Torrance at this time.

Mr. Stanger suggested that, inasmuch as the time element is predominant in the matter, pipe could be laid from the water mains serving the school in the North Torrance district to the necessary point in order to connect with the consumers affected by the water shortage, and that, thereby, hasty, and possibly regrettable, action in the matter could be avoided. He volunteered to contact Mr. Jewett, Health Officer, June 11, 1941 and get a definite decision as to whether or not the County Counsel will permit use of water from the school.

It was advised by someone in the assemblage that about three feet of pipe will be required to make connections with the school mains possible. Mr. Stanger advised that a pressure reducing valve is all that is required, which, he said, the Water Department has in stock.

Since the school semester runs two more weeks, the question arose as to whether or not water would be furnished during school hours, the answer being that between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., water could not be used until the semester ends.

Mr. McCall said Mr. Findley is endeavoring to obtain temporary water service from someone in the vicinity.

After considerable discussion, Mayor McGuire requested Mr. Stanger to contact Mr. Jewett regarding service from the school.

Councilman Babcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:50 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned.



City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:



Mayor of the City of Torrance